



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



M. J. "MIKE FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

V J. BELLA
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2002 - 10

To: Licensed Architects
Licensed Engineers
Licensed Sprinkler Contractors
Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors
Licensed Fire Suppression Contractors
Felicia Cooper, Administrator - Inspections
Stephen Gogreve, Manager
Boyd Petty, Manager
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections
Plan Review Staff

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect
Jean Carter, Architect Supervisor
Henry Reed, Architect Supervisor
Fidel Fremin, Architect Supervisor
Cynthia Obier, Architect Supervisor

Approved: Mark Gates,
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Date: May 15, 2002

Re: **Closed Door Ovens**

In 1997 the State Fire Marshal's office was made aware that some kitchen facilities were using ovens to cook trays of bacon, thereby creating grease laden vapors contributing to a potential fire hazard. A formal interpretation issued by NFPA allows the omission of suppression protection only where cooking equipment does not produce grease-laden vapors. In an effort to protect the public, plan review began requiring the protection of closed-door ovens. Only where the owners agreed not to use a closed-door oven to produce grease-laden vapors would this office allow the oven to be installed without a suppression nozzle. Additionally, all such ovens were required to have a hood and duct over the door. The hood would capture and remove the grease-laden vapors escaping from the oven. This was necessary to prevent their accumulation on the kitchen walls and ceilings.

At this time, there are no listed devices specifically listed for oven protection and no closed-door oven fires have been reported to this office. It must be assumed that if any have occurred, the employees simply kept the oven door shut to prevent spread of the fire to the hood plenum and the exhaust duct. Based on these observations, this office hereby rescinds the requirement to provide a suppression system for the protection of "closed door ovens." Note that ovens used in a manner that produces grease laden vapors will be required to have exhaust systems constructed in accordance with NFPA 96. An eyebrow type hood is specifically required at oven openings by NFPA 96:2-1 (Fig.2-1.2).

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